

EXPERIMENTS ON RAIL ROADS.

The importance of securing an easy, economical, and expeditious means of communication, between all parts of our widely extended country, now rapidly increasing in population, is so universally admitted, and so fully appreciated, that it is deemed altogether unnecessary to attempt any illustration, of the many, and deeply interesting considerations, which urge upon us the propriety of availing ourselves, of every practicable means, by which this most desirable purpose can be effectuated.

Whether we consider the subject as regards its social, commercial, or political relations, it is believed that all will agree, there is no other question, which can, at this time, have so strong a claim upon the close and earnest attention of the American people and Government.

Of the several artificial means of intercommunication between distant points, turnpike roads, canals and rail-ways; unquestionably have the advantage over all others which human ingenuity has suggested; each of these has its particular claims to a preference, according to the nature and extent of the communication proposed to be accommodated, or to local circumstances, and the surface of the country to be traversed.

When the traffic or communication is small, a turnpike road would, on account of the cheapness of its cost, naturally be adopted: when the country is level, and water abundant, as in Holland, a canal would afford all the necessary accommodation, if speed in transportation was not requisite; but when the country is mountainous, or even undulating—the traffic large, and a rapid transit desirable, a rail-road would afford advantages so much greater than either a turnpike road or canal, as to leave no doubt of its superiority, both as regards safety, speed, and economy.

The following reports and statements of experiments upon the Liverpool and Manchester, and other rail roads in England, will, at once satisfy every candid unprejudiced individual of the correctness of this opinion; and will afford an exhibit of the prodigious improvements which in the short space of three years have been realised in the construction of Rail Roads, and the application of moving power upon them in that country. At the same time it should be remarked, that experience, aided by the inventive genius of highly talented men, both in the United States and in Europe, is daily developing further discoveries and improvements, in this important system of intercommunication.